

From: Rob Cowart
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 1:44pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

My mother is a teacher in an elementary school in North Texas, with about 20 children per grade. They have one computer in each classroom, and it's a Macintosh. If Microsoft gives the school new computers, the children will learn to use those, maybe they will dispose of the older Macs, and then Microsoft will have taken a market away from Apple. The children will feel comfortable with Windows, and may continue to use it all of their lives. The settlement gives Microsoft the chance to get customers for 80 years or so. If the point of the settlement is to increase Microsoft's market share in the schools, then the Settlement is perfect. But it's not, the reverse needs to happen. Only by competing against itself can Microsoft lose market share. The government split up AT&T, and competition increased and consumers benefited, eventually; this is no different and I don't understand why the government is treating it like it is.

Thanks for reading this,
Robert

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